

MOUNTAIN LIFE AND WORK

Organ of the Conference of Southern Mountain Workers

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 MOUNTAIN LIFE AND WORK
 BEREa, KENTUCKY

FEDERAL AID FOR EDUCATION

Friends of education in the Southern Mountains should see to it that their representatives in Washington are not allowed to forget the children of the original "forgotten man." The need for Federal aid for education is shown by figures in the National Emergency Council's *Report on Economic Conditions of the South*. Today education cannot be financed locally anymore than can highways, or industry, or national defense.

For decades rural communities have taxed themselves to educate children, have given the finished product of eighteen or twenty years' labor to the cities, and have received nothing in exchange except an ever smaller share of the consumer's dollar, increased taxes on land of diminished fertility, and higher prices on feeds, fertilizers, farm machinery, and other things they had to buy. Now that lands are more exhausted and other resources like timber either gone or passed out of their control, the cost of education must be shared by the urban communities and industrial states that get the wealth-producing labor of country-bred young men and women. "In 1930 the farm people of the United States received 9 percent of the Nation's income and supported 31 per cent of the Nation's children." They must have help. Adequate education is democracy's first line of defense. O.L.K.

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